Metallurgical Project

Compute. Project Cirector

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HEALTH, RADIATION, AND PROTECTION

R. S. Stone, M.D., Division Director

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REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING APRIL 3, 1943

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		Table of Contents	
			Page
A	. Ge	al Summary - R. S. Stone	2
В	. Re	ports from Subsidiary Projects	
	1.	N.C.I Carl Voegtlin, M.D., Director	4
		a. Biologic Action of γ and X-Radiation - E. Lorenz, W. M. Deringer	E. Hestor
		b. Blood and Tissue Changes Caused by X-Rays - P. S. is and A. Nettleship	lenshaw 7
	2.	U. of C. Radiation Laboratory Departments of Physiology and Biochemistry. Abstract of Report CH-554 - J. G. Hamilton	10
3.	CD 4	nical Hedicina and Hedical Personah . C. m. Carters at a	
•	Sec	nical Medicine and Medical Research - S. T. Cantril, M.D. tion Chief	11
	3.	This document has been approved for release to the public by:	
	5.	Site X Plans Toxicology of X-metal	
	6.	Reports in Progress Rechnical Information Officer Date ORNL Site	
٠,	Bio	logical Research - K. S. Cole, Section Chief	12
ė	Hea	lth Physics - E. O. Wollan, Section Chief	13
	7.	Radium sources	
	8.	Pocket Chambers - H. M. Parker	
	9.	Choice of Wall Material and its Thickness - H. M. Parker and Carl Camertsfelder	
	10.	Beta Ray Chambers	
	11.	Simple Indicating Neters	
	12:	Leaks in Radium Sources	MALE STATE OF THE

definitional description of the last premission of the last premission in the manner to an areal person leprobletted by law.

ChemRisk Document No. 2855

E. HEALTH PHYSICS

E. O. Wollan -- Section Chief

A letter of limited circulation was made on: The Radioactive Contamination of the River Resulting from the Discharge of Cooling Water Into It (MUC-HG - 53).

The tolerance concentration as far as external radiation effects on a body such as a fish immersed in water was found to be about 10-11 watts of radioactive energy emitted per cm3 of the water. For 2 MeV gamma rays this corresponds to about 2 x 10⁻⁵ curies/cu ft. There is also the tolerance concentration for continued drinking of contaminated water. This was found to correspond to a somewhat higher concentration than that for immersion. In view of the uncertainties of such calculations 16-5 curies/ cu ft of energetic gamma- rays and beta- rays has been taken as the tolerance figure. On the basis of this a calculation indicated that for a pile of 5 x 105 kw a fractional coating failure of 10-3 would have to result before the fission products which are ejected directly into the fooling water would bring the activity to the tolerance concentration in a river of 35,000 cu ft/sec. at a point 1 minute from the pile. At one hour from the pile it was estimated that 6% of the coating would have to fail before the tolerance concentration would be reached by the activity resulting from the recoil mechanism.

For the activity resulting from the dissolving of uncoated metal a calculation indicated that the total activity of the metal in a 5 \times 10⁵ kw pile one minute after shut down would correspond approximately to 4 \times 10⁸ and a color of same rays and because the large and the correspond to a color of contration in a river of 55,000 cu ft/sec. a fractional rate of loss of